

25X1

OUT61910

P 040019Z MAY 67
FM NPIC WASH DC
TO AIG NINE SEVEN SIX
RUEPJS/DIA PRODCEN
RUEPJS/NIC
BT
S E C R E T

1967 MAY 4 00 35Z

Responds (to DIA) to CINCPACFLT Msg 260506Z Apr (IN 25X15)

CITE NPIC 0575.

1. THE NPIC HAS BEEN REFERRING TO A NEW CLASS OF LIGHT CARGO VESSEL, TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS A PROBABLE "AKL". THIS TYPE VESSEL HAS RECENTLY BEEN OBSERVED IN NORTH VIETNAMESE WATERS IN A RESUPPLY ROLE DURING "TET" AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE HAI PHONG PORT FACILITIES AND THE KEP AREA SUBSEQUENT TO "TET".

2. THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES THE NPIC RATIONALE IN ARRIVING AT ITS ORIGINAL IDENTIFICATION AND TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION:

A. THE HULL SHAPE APPARENTLY COMPROMISING CARGO CAPACITY FOR INCREASED SPEED.

B. PRESENCE OF LIGHT MACHINE GUN MOUNTS FORE AND AFT (WITH GUNS IN PLACE ON AT LEAST 1 UNIT)

C. UNIFORM GREY PAINT (AS OPPOSED TO TWO OR MORE TONES FOUND ON THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THE CIVIL FLEET)

D. LACK OF STACK MARKINGS

E. POSSIBLE IDENTIFYING SYMBOLS (PAINTED BLACK ON THE GREY HULL) ON THE STARBOARD BOW ONLY.

F. TO DATE, NPIC HAS NOT OBSERVED BUILDING OF THE VESSELS IN NORTH VIETNAM. IT IS PROBABLE THAT SERIES PRODUCTION WAS UNDERTAKEN IN A DENIED AREA.

G. EMPLOYMENT OF THE VESSELS IN A COMBAT ZONE.

DISTRIBUTION		
Cy No.	Office	Action
1	File	
2	OS	
	SEC BR	
	TDS	
3	CCD	
	FPD	
	FPD	
	PCD	
	FPD-OB	
	FPD	
4, 5	FPD	
6	FPD	
	FPD	
	FPD	
	FPD	
	FPD	

Advance copy

Sanitized 25X1

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

- 2 -

3. THE ABOVE FACTS IMPLY THAT THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF THE VESSELS IN QUESTION REPRESENTS A HIGH PRIORITY, AT LEAST QUASI-MILITARY PROJECT PROBABLY RELATED TO MILITARY RESUPPLY.

4. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SPECIFIC DESIGNATION SL-1 HAS GAINED COMMON USAGE FOR THESE VESSELS, NPIC WILL HERE AFTER REPORT THEM AS SL-1 VICE NEW CLASS AKL.

GP-1

S E C R E

25X1

-END OF MESSAGE-

S/C NOTE: ALSO PASSED PRITY SAIG INFO DIR VETN UDOR